

2 February 2026

Our Ref Finance, Audit and Risk Committee 10  
February 2026  
Contact. Committee Services  
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Email. [committee.services@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:committee.services@north-herts.gov.uk)

To: Members of the Committee Councillors: Vijaiya Poopalasingham (Chair), Sarah Lucas (Vice-Chair), Ruth Brown, Dominic Griffiths, Steven Patmore, Paul Ward, Stewart Willoughby and Daniel Wright-Mason

Substitute Councillors: Cathy Brownjohn, Sam Collins, Ralph Muncer, Matt Barnes and David Barnard

Independent Member: John Cannon *Non-voting advisory role*

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A**

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

to be held in the

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, GERON  
ROAD, LETCHWORTH, HERTS, SG6 3JF**

On

**TUESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 2026 AT 7.30 PM**

Yours sincerely,

Isabelle Alajooz  
Director – Governance

**\*\*MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD ALL AGENDAS AND REPORTS VIA THE MOD.GOV APPLICATION ON YOUR TABLET BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING\*\***

## **Agenda Part I**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>
<p><b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Members are required to notify any substitutions by midday on the day of the meeting.</p> <p>Late substitutions will not be accepted and Members attending as a substitute without having given the due notice will not be able to take part in the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>2. MINUTES - 7 JANUARY 2026</b> To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 7 January 2026.</p>	<p>(Pages 5 - 16)</p>
<p><b>3. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS</b> Members should notify the Chair of other business which they wish to be discussed at the end of either Part I or Part II business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>The Chair will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered.</p>	
<p><b>4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chair of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote.</p>	
<p><b>5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b> To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public.</p>	

6. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024/25 AND ACTION PLAN FOR 2025/26** (Pages 17 - 44)  
REPORT OF THE POLICY AND COMMUNITY MANAGER

This report presents the final Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year 2024/25. The Statement reviews the Council's governance arrangements for the 2024/25 period. It also includes an Action Plan to update/improve those arrangements for the following financial year (2025/26). The report also includes a progress update on this action plan.

7. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2024/25** (Pages 45 - 228)  
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES

To consider the Statement of Accounts 2024/25.

8. **BUDGET 2026/27 (REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS)** (Pages 229 - 262)  
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES

To consider the Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2026/27.

9. **INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2026/27** (Pages 263 - 302)  
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES

To consider the Investment Strategy 2026/27.

10. **POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**  
The Chair to lead a discussion regarding possible agenda items for future meetings.